

9/23/66

Dear Belfrage,

The always hasty but always appreciative response. Your letter of the 19th is so nice that someone bit a 2" hunk off of one edge before it reached me this morning. Thanks for the suggestions. I may have a publisher, for both books (WHITEWASH is now over 13,000!). I'll know more next week. This house has done another kind of publishing and may set up a separate corporation to do this. If they can show me they can and will give it effective and immediate distribution, will give me a sizeable advance not only because I need it and am entitled to it but more as a reflection of their intentions, and put on paper the verbal agreement that I have veto over doctrine in pr and adv., we'll sign quick. One of my stipulations was the appearance date of WHITEWASH II: WHO DID IT. Fast.

The publisher's son, a report, has read my Epilogue, which I subtitle a personal comment. I enjoyed watching him roll the words around on his tongue like a wine and appreciate the affirmation of what I said. It is tough and very pointed and quite personal and specific in references. I have been able to read and correct but the first part, less than a third, for I stay busy with the minimum requirements of WHITEWASH, which I virtually abandoned while writing this one. I am astounded on counting up to see that with the continuing work on the book that is out I did 83,000 on the sequel in a month or less! A terrible way to write. It is about the same size as the first, although I planned for a shorter one. Two earlier chapters, one of which at least has been in part stolen, have been integrated. There will have to be a smaller appendix. My appendix would make a book in itself, and maybe, having done things never done before, I just might do that, with ~~xxxxxx~~ a coupon in the book by which it can be ordered. It tells an additional story aside from what it reveals of the assassination and its investigation.

If you can do me any good at the Congress I'll appreciate it. This morning's mail brings the intelligence that the Italian publisher who asked for an option is anxious to do the book and will be in touch with my British agent. Last week a French request for an option. Arriba is serializing in Spain, hence the translation of at least newspaper minimum is done for Latin America. A German magazine, Penerema, is serializing, but I know nothing more about it. DILIA, the Czech literary and theatrical agency, has been interested - nay, excited! since February but has not been able to do anything. And my British agent, who has been wonderful, is Gordon Harbord, 53 St. Martin's Lane, London WC 2.

Popkin is but one case. There now seem to be four cases of plagiarism about which I intend to do nothing public. I am on record in private. This is the kind of subject I think that as long as I can I shall prefer to take the lumps on rather than make an additional scandal. Manchester will do enough of that. Pearson has published the fact of the Kennedy intervention against books other than his, which is theirs. The NY Review and Avon are copublishers of Popkin's book, which is an enlargement of his "review", which is even more scandalous, especially for the NYR involvement. Avon tells people who would tell me they are waiting for me to file suit before they launch their projected adv and pr campaign! What monsters!

Sincerely,